

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
CEQ-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /138 W
-----103604 041032Z /14

R 031204Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9942
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3439

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH IN US
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON INDO-US NUCLEAR RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 3113

1. EASWAR SAGAR, TOWARD THE END OF AN OTHERWISE OBJECTIVE ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 2 "HINDU", REPORTED A "LURKING SUSPICION" THAT THE ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS SEEKING NRC HEARINGS ON INDIA'S REQUEST FOR 7.6 TONS OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TARAPUR (REFTEL) "ARE BEING PRODDER INTO ACTION BY SOME OTHERS WHO PREFER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS." SAGAR THEN NOTED THAT ONE OF THE ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS, THE NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, IS SAID TO HAVE OBTAINED A CIA DOCUMENT PORTRAYING INDIA AS A "POTENTIAL EXPORTER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, IN AN OBVIOUS BID TO BLOCK FURTHER SALES OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA." HE SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, PREOCCUPIED WITH THE OCAI STRIKE AND THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, HAD NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH ON HIS "PROMISE OF FUEL TO INDIA."

2. SAGAR THINKS THAT NRC HEARINGS "WILL ENABLE DIEHARD UNCLASSIFIED

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ELEMENTS TO RAKE UP ALL THE OLD STALE ARGUMENTS FOR IMPOSING IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS ON INDIA, WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE FEELING OF MUTUAL GOODWILL THAT PRESENTLY EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." HE POINTED TO SENATOR GLENN'S REMARK ABOUT INDIA'S "CURRENTLY UNDESIRABLE" POSITION TOWARD SAFEGUARDS AS A HARBINGER OF FURTHER ATTEMPTS BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO "BADGER

INDIA INTO MAKING CONCESSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF
SAFEGUARDS."
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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